

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Youth Access to Buckner

**Scope:** Youth access to the Buckner Gym pool and workout facility does not meet the needs of student athletes. This request is specifically focused on the needs of youth preparing for sports or athletic events, who need a professional gym/athletic environment (the environment is as important as the equipment), which will serve to encourage students to become involved in and excel at high school sports. Alaska is currently among the top ten states in the US for child obesity (which this would be a concerted effort to overcome) .Youth involved in school and installation sports programs could condition, heighten physical activity and promote healthy lifestyles through regular gym attendance.

**Recommendation:** Reconsider allowing high school age athletes to swim and workout at Buckner from 2 to5 pm daily. At this time there is a minimal amount of active duty soldiers occupying the gym.

- Allow high school student athletes to work out at Buckner unaccompanied by parent, provided parents have completed required registration forms.
- Avoid recommending equivalencies in other environments.
- Documentation of school athletic involvement could be required to authenticate student needs.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active and send it forward.**

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Youth Involvement in Outdoor recreation Area Improvements

**Scope:** The rugged terrain of many Fort Richardson sports and recreation areas causes them to be unappealing, uninviting, and underutilized. Dyea Recreation Area isn't used to full potential during spring and summer seasons. If Dyea hill and half-pipe were groomed and landscaped it would lengthen sport seasons and be better suited for winter and summer recreational use. Youth ownership in the beautification and improvement of recreation areas will encourage care and maintenance, involve youth, and revitalize Fort Richardson real estate.

**Recommendation:** Enlist a committee of youth (including Teen Council) and adult volunteers to clear, landscape and seed grass and maintain Dyea and other recreational impact areas. Market project as a community service / benefit opportunity through Army Community Services Volunteer Coordinator.

**WBAC voted this issue completed and closed.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Add Age Requirements to Job Announcement

**Scope:** Addendum to AFAP issue #78 from last year

This was addressed last year and improvements were made, however, AAFES and Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) offices do not specify age requirements on teen eligible employment opportunities.

**Recommendation:** Please put minimum age requirements and whether it is teen friendly on job announcements. AAFES and NAF employment offices advertise and regularly update teen eligible jobs at Youth Center

**WBAC did not vote on this issue as it is already being reviewed by the Department of the Army headquarters.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Annual TRICARE Eye Exam for Retirees & their families

**Scope:** TRICARE only covers 1 eye exam every 2 years for retirees and their family members. To maintain eye health, an exam should be obtained every year. Glasses and contact lens prescriptions are only valid for 1 year. Through yearly eye exams, other medical problems may be discovered (e.g. glaucoma & stroke). Also, aging and circumstances tend to prompt rapid vision changes which may be missed without an annual exam. Many retirees and their family members are currently forced to pay out of pocket for eye exams every other year.

**Recommendation:** Increase eye exam coverage for retirees and their family members to one per year.

**WBAC did not act on this issue as it has already been forwarded to higher headquarters and is still active.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Inadequate Medical Care

**Scope:** Medial facilities on Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson are currently understaffed. This is evident in the lack of appointment availability and excessive wait time at each department. There is currently no after-hours Urgent Care, which places a higher demand on the Emergency Room. In addition, the Fort Richardson community has recently tripled its population and the existing medical staffing levels have not been adjusted to adequately handle this increase.

**Recommendation:**

- Combine Army and Air Force medical resources under one administration.
- Increase medical personnel on Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base to meet the needs of the growing military population.
- Create an Urgent Care facility and satellite pharmacy on Fort Richardson.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active and send it to higher headquarters for further study.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Communications with United Concordia

**Scope:** United Concordia does not provide informative customer care and communication. Esoteric language used by the company to explain coverage does not effectively relay specifics of the policy to the customer. Unclear facts sometimes lead to disputes over coverage between United Concordia and care providers.

**Recommendation:**

- Provide local United Concordia representative.
- Provide a declaration sheet to clarify the Explanation of Benefits.
- Modify website to include definitions of claim codes and clearer explanation of benefits and entitlements.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active and forward to higher headquarters.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Paternity Leave

**Scope:** Currently, male Soldiers are charged leave after the birth of a child. Under AR 600-8-10, Commanders are not required to give any leave. Soldiers need to be at home with their families after childbirth to aid with recovery and adjustment without penalty.

**Recommendation:** Revise AR 600-8-10 to provide Soldiers the right to take up to 10 days uncharged paternity leave for fathers in a non-deployed status.

**WBAC voted not to accept this issue as a well-being issue and to forward to USARAK.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Unwarranted Meal Card Deductions

**Scope:** Soldiers with meal cards are charged for meals they don't eat. The Dining Facility's food budget is based solely on head count per AR 30-22. Meal card holders are not always willing or able to eat there. Paying for meals not eaten results in lower morale. The Soldiers then questions where and why the money is spent.

**Recommendation:**

Investigate and publish where the unused meal deduction money is spent.  
Revise AR 600-38 to implement a pay-for-meals consumed program.

**WBAC voted to close this issue as unattainable.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Emergency Leave

**Scope:** Soldiers are charged for taking emergency leave. In accordance with AR 600-8-10, 30 days per year are allocated for both emergency and ordinary leave purposes. Soldiers are required to use their leave for unexpected circumstances. This prevents them from taking ordinary leave for morale purposes.

**Recommendation:** Revise AR 600-8-10, to provide 10 non-accruable days per year for emergency leave.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active and to send it forward.**

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Housing Standards

**Scope:** The living conditions on Fort Richardson are substandard and inadequate. Many unaccompanied and accompanied Soldier's and family's live in quarters that do not meet Department of Defense standards. Significant quality of life and safety deficiencies exist, including fire and water damage, electrical and structural problems, and mold. The living conditions of many on-post quarters are so inadequate that they severely impair Soldiers' and family member's morale and readiness. According to the Department of Public Works, Military construction accounts are available to competitive projects.

**Recommendation:**

1. Re-evaluate funding allocations for military construction projects at Fort Richardson.
2. Establish an annual inspection program for installations housing units. Ensure inspections include plumbing, heating, electrical and structural compliance.
3. Provide full-disclosure of quarters' maintenance records and history to all applicants and current occupants.
4. Conduct an annual survey of housing conditions and provide housing residents the opportunity to report any deficiencies prior to inspections

**WBAC voted as follows: # 1 closed, # 2 closed as unattainable, # 3 closed & # 4 closed as unattainable.**

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Family Readiness Group (FRG) Facilities

**Scope:** Current FRG facilities are temporary, meager, and are unable to accommodate brigade or even smaller size FRG functions. FRGs are not equipped with a permanent location to conduct daily operations. The current Army Regulations 600-20 and 608-1 restrict FRG operations. The Army's current transformation has forced a two-fold increase with an anticipated future growth of 33 percent active duty personnel for the current fiscal year at Fort Richardson. These statistics do not include a 60 to 70 percent increase in the number of family members. The Army's current deployment posture has overwhelmed the resources of rear detachments and FRG leaders. Deployed Soldiers need to remain mission focused while relying on FRG support for their family's well-being.

**Recommendation:**

1. Initiate funding to build or renovate a facility to support the current 42 FRG's on this installation. This facility needs to accommodate a brigade or smaller FRG, with separate classrooms for reintegration, FRG classes, office space, childcare areas, and general FRG functions.
2. Model existing facilities available at other installations, for example: deployment centers at Fort Bliss, Fort Lewis, and Fort Hood.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active with the DGC's office taking the lead.**

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Transition Lodging

**Scope:** Transition lodging for most special needs families is not fully accommodating. Many are not affordable. This affects all EFMP families during the permanent change of station or exiting transition station process. Current accommodations adversely affect EFMP families emotionally and physically, which can take away from the family's mobility, financial stability, and the Soldier's duty performance.

**Recommendation:**

1. The goal of the EFMP guest house is to provide temporary lodging for special needs family members during the transition process or while visiting the installation. Suggested provisions include: non-smoking, limited steps, carpet-free facilities, wheel chair accessibility and lower cabinets.

2. Renovate several housing units scheduled for demolition on Fort Richardson to comply with the American Disabilities Act. Provide accommodations for family members with special needs, for example: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Severe Asthma and Allergies.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active with DMWR and DPW as POCs for further study.**

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Availability of Extended 24-Hour Childcare

**Scope:** Extended Hours Childcare is insufficient to meet the needs of emergency and mission specific situations. No more than 14 days are authorized and there are not enough providers available. The current situation compromises unit and family readiness, morale, and strength.

**Recommendation:**

1. Increase authorized Extended 24-hour Childcare up to 30 days at a time to meet Soldier and family needs.
2. Provide training and funding for additional Extended 24-hour Childcare providers.

**WBAC voted this issue active and local and will be revisited next meeting.**

# 2006 AFAP

## WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Pedestrian Safety in School Zones

**Scope:** Traffic is creating hazardous situations for pedestrians in school zones. School zones are not being properly monitored for traffic violations. It is dangerous for pedestrians to cross the street in school zones.

**Recommendation:** Designate an agency to implement a crossing guard program in school zones.

1. Consider hiring part time crossing guards, similar to “noon duties”, from parent pool.
2. Consult with Parent Teacher Association and suggest that they tap into installation resources i.e. Retirees, Community Action Council and Family Readiness Groups.
3. Recommend Command to allow federally employed parents to participate in a volunteer crossing guard program.

**WBAC voted to accept this issue as active and refer to Safety for further study.**

# 2006 AFAP

WBAC Disposition Mar 15

**Title:** Family Zone Hours Inadequate

**Scope:** Limited hours at the Family Zone affect the accessibility for students and working families. The facility is currently open Monday – Friday, 0900-1700, which excludes potential participants. Families leaving work and school are unable to use the Family Zone due to limited operational hours. This is a beneficial facility everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy.

**Recommendation:** Increase hours, Monday through Friday to at least 2100 hours; include additional hours on weekends and holidays.

**WBAC voted to close this issue as completed and to monitor patron satisfaction through ICE.**